



# Donna Lynas MBE

8 January 1967 – 22 January 2021

*It seems that it's time that we had a collective hard think about what we want the future to look like and accept that relentless growth, innovation (and exploitation) is not going to work anymore. That it really is time to re-think absolutely everything; a chance to make things better maybe.*

Donna Lynas, March 2015

## Online Memorial

Friday 23 April 11am–12 noon  
A celebration of the life of Donna Lynas  
late Director of Wysing Arts Centre

### Part One

Hosted by Harold Offeh, Artist and Wysing Trustee

Contributions from  
Gideon Pain, Donna's husband

Astrid Bowron, Curator, Modern Art Oxford (1997–2002)  
& Paul Hobson, Director, Modern Art Oxford, 2013– )  
with remembrances from Mona Hatoum and Willie Doherty

Margot Heller, Director, South London Gallery (2001– )  
with actions by Marie Cool Fabio Balducci and an extract from On Kawara's  
*Reading One Million Years* read by Marcia Farquhar and Tom McCarthy

Helen Cammock, Artist

Adam Christensen, Artist

Jesse Darling, Artist

### Part Two

*Music provided by*

Imran Perretta, Artist

Philomène Pirecki, Artist

Paul Purgas, Artist

During this second part of the memorial, guests are invited to share memories of Donna in the chat room, to reconnect with old friends or to reflect privately.



I once read a vivid description of how a bird's eyesight functions – using the right eye for smaller, more detailed local information and the left eye for more global, contextual focus enables birds to hold this dual attention simultaneously.

I think this extraordinary capacity illustrates Donna's leadership of Wysing Arts Centre. I have never worked with anyone who had the ability to hold in each decision the precise detail whilst also carrying an open attention to imagine and relentlessly pursue a bigger vision.

Donna once said to me that we should imagine a world where every school, hospital or public facing institution would have an artist in residence, such is the depth of artists' contribution to society, to understanding and social cohesion.

Donna led the strategic direction of Wysing, the conditions for experimentation, openness and inclusion and something extraordinary has and is flourishing there. You can't create those conditions overnight, it takes years of determined listening, iterating and building. Donna had a deeply held commitment that the artists Wysing supports must reflect the diversity of the society in which we live and address the urgent concerns and challenges we face.

We all have a responsibility to ensure Donna's attention to artists and vision for the future lives on.

It was a privilege.

RIP Donna. X

*Jo Marsh, Chair, Wysing Arts Centre*

Born, 8 January 1967

Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee

First Class Honours Degree in Design

(Jewellery and Metalsmithing)

1986–1989

Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee

Post-graduate Diploma in Design, with distinction

(Jewellery and Metalsmithing)

1989–1990

Practising artist at Reading Space Studios

1992–1995

Touring Exhibitions Organiser, Museum of Modern Art

Oxford

1995–1997

Curator, Museum of Modern Art Oxford

1997–1999

Curator, South London Gallery

1999–2005

Director, Wysing Arts Centre

2005–2021

Donna is survived by her husband Gideon

and two daughters Freya and Dora